



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

January 13, 2004

**BREVARD COUNTY ARMED ROBBER FACING**  
**57-YEAR MINIMUM MANDATORY SENTENCE**

ORLANDO - A jury in U.S. District Court in Orlando today found a Vero Beach man, **ANTALE LAVAR WILLIAMS**, age 25, guilty of three counts of carrying a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. The three counts carry a minimum mandatory sentence of 57 years' imprisonment. Williams entered guilty pleas to three additional counts of interference with commerce by robbery in the same case on January 12, 2004. Any sentence imposed in the three robberies must be served consecutively to the prison term imposed on the firearms charges. Williams and his co-defendant, Yosvany Castro, age 19, of Palm Bay, previously had been indicted by a federal grand jury on September 24, 2003.

According to the evidence presented at trial, Castro and Williams robbed three Brevard County convenience stores between January 5-7, 2003. The stores are located in Palm Bay, Titusville and Mims, Florida and are owned by the 7-11 Corporation and The Pantry, Inc. During the three day robbery spree, Castro used a semi-automatic pistol to threaten customers and store clerks while Williams physically assaulted store employees. The combined robberies netted the pair a total of just over \$300.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the

Titusville Police Department, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Palm Bay Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). This is another case prosecuted as a part of the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the ATF. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

Williams will be sentenced on April 7, 2004 by the Honorable U.S. District Judge Anne C. Conway. Castro was convicted of the same offenses after a jury trial on December 16, 2003. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr. and Special Assistant United States Attorney Gregory J. Konieczka.